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A KEY

TO THE

CORRECT PRONUNCIATION

OF THE

FRENCH LANGUAGE,

BY

PROF. BREITHOF.

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CONTENTS.

PAGE.

INTRODUCTION 5
DIVISION OF WORDS INTO SYLLABLES . . . 7
TONIC ACCENT OR STRESS 8

CHAPTER I.

PRONUNCIATION OF THE VOWELS.

§ 1. SIMPLE VOWELS 9
§ 2. COMPOUND VOWELS 18
§ 3. DIPHTHONGS 20
§ 4. REMARKS ON THE NASAL SOUNDS 22
LINKING OF FINAL *n* 25
§ 5. ELISION OF FINAL *e* MUTE 26
§ 6. ADDITIONAL REMARKS ON *e* MUTE . . . 27

CHAPTER II.

TYPOGRAPHIC MARKS OF THE VOWELS.

§ 1. ACCENTS — THEIR USE 29
§ 2. REMARKS ON LONG AND SHORT VOWELS . . 30
§ 3. DIÆRESIS 34

CHAPTER III.

PRONUNCIATION OF THE CONSONANTS.

§ 1. FINAL CONSONANTS PRECEDED BY VOWELS . . 37
§ 2. FINAL CONSONANTS PRECEDED BY CONSONANTS . 40
§ 3. SILENT CONSONANTS IN THE MIDDLE OF WORDS . 42
§ 4. LINKING OF FINAL CONSONANTS 42
§ 5. ADDITIONAL REMARKS ON THE CONSONANTS . . 44

ERRATUM.

First line of page 21, instead of *oignon* read *encoignure*.

INTRODUCTION.

1. The French alphabet is identically the same as the English; but two letters (*k* and *w*) do not properly belong to the French Alphabet, as they are only found in a few words borrowed from foreign languages.

N. B. The six letters *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*, *y*, are called *vowels*, as in English; the remaining letters, *b*, *c* . . . *w*, *x*, *z*, are *consonants*.

2. The French and English letters, although similar in form, are far from having similar sounds in all positions. Some letters (*h*, *j*, *th*, *w*,) never sound alike in both languages.

H (*h*) is constantly silent in French, according to the pronunciation of the educated. At the beginning of a word it serves to show etymology.

N. B. As for the distinction made, by grammarians, between *aspirate h* and *mute h*, see No. 53.

J (*j*) in French constantly takes the accidental sound of the English *z*, as heard in the word *azure;* or, which is the same, that of *s*, as heard in the English words *measure*, *leisure*, *vision*.

Th (*th*) in French constantly takes the hard sound of *t*.

N. B. The English sound of *th* is not found in the French tongue.

W (*w*) constantly sounds like *v* in English.

3. There are several letters, which sometimes resemble in sound, sometimes differ from the English. For instance: —

C (*c*) before *e*, *i*, *y*, never takes the sound as heard in the English words *ocean*, *precious*, but constantly the hissing sound, as heard in the English words *face*, *city*.

Ch (*ch*) in French never takes the sound as heard in the English word *church;* but generally the one as heard in the English — *machine*.

Before a letter different from *e*, *i*, *y*, *h*, or at the end of a word, the French *c* constantly takes, as in English, the hard sound, equivalent to *k*.

G (*g*) before *e*, *i*, *y*, never takes any of the sounds as heard in the English words *gem*, *gin*, *gymnastic*, *get*, *give;* but constantly the sound of the French *j*.

Before a letter different from *e*, *i*, *y*, *n*, or at the end of a word, *g* constantly takes the hard, guttural sound, as heard in the English words — *go*, *big*.

S (*s*) never takes the sounds as heard in the English words *measure*, *sugar*. The French *s*, between two vowels, takes, with few exceptions, the soft sound, as heard in the English word *easy*. This soft sound of *s* takes also place before the consonants *b*, *d*, *g*, *h*, *v*. In all other positions the French *s* takes the sharp, hissing sound, as heard in the English words *so*, *us*, *sister*. Double *s* constantly takes the sound, as heard in the English word *essay;* never the one, as heard in the English words, *pression*, *assurance*.

T (*t*) before *i* never takes the sound, as heard in the English words *nation*, *partial;* but before a letter different from *i*, or at the end of a word, it takes the hard sound, as heard in the English words — *to*, *not*, *pity*.

X (*x*) never takes the sound as heard in the English word *complexion;* but in words beginning with *exa*, *exe*, *exi*, *exo*, *exu*, *exh*, it takes, as in English, the sound of *gz*. In all other positions the French *x* takes, with some exceptions, the sound of *ks*.

Z (*z*) in French never takes the sound as heard in the English word *azure;* but always the one as heard in the English word *zone;* excepting, however, a few proper names ending with *ez*, *etz*, in which final *z* sounds like sharp *s*, as heard in the English word — *us*.

4. Three letters (*l*, *m*, *n*,) which have each one uniform sound in English, have each two sounds in French. At the beginning of a word they constantly sound as in English.

L (*l*), when single and in the middle of a word, sounds as in English.

Final *l* and *ll*, preceded by a letter different from *i*, constantly sound as in English.

M (*m*), before a letter different from *b* and *p*, sounds, with few exceptions, as in English.

Final *m* and double *m* generally sound as in English.

N (*n*) before a vowel constantly sounds as in English. Before *h* and *n* it sounds, with some exceptions, as in English. Before a consonant different from *h* and *n*, it takes a *nasal* articulation, peculiar to the French tongue.

5. The only letters, which constantly sound alike in both languages, are

B,	D,	F,	K,	P,	Ph,	Q,	R,	Rh,	V.
b,	d,	f,	k,	p,	ph,	q,	r,(*)	rh,	v.

* Mark, however, that *r* at the end of a word or before a consonant, sounds much more distinctly in French than in English.

DIVISION OF WORDS INTO SYLLABLES.

6. Definitions: A *monosyllable* is a word pronounced by a single emission of the voice, provided it does not end with a silent *e*, preceded by a consonant. Such are

a	ma	mal	malt	mast
ou	cou	cour	court	ours

When a word contains two or more vowels, pronounced separately or separated from one another by consonants, it takes the general name of *polysyllable*, which means in Greek a word of *several syllables*. Hence a *syllable* is a part of a word, pronounced by a single emission of the voice.

When an assemblage of two consonants, placed between two vowels, belongs to one and the same syllable, it is called an *inseparable combination*. Such are

bl,	cl,	fl,	gl,	pl,	dr,	vr,
br,	cr,	fr,	gr,	pr,	tr,	gn.

7. Rule I: Any consonant (simple or compound) different from *x*, when single and placed between two vowels, belongs to the same syllable with the latter vowel.

Examples: *animal*, divide thus, *a-ni-mal.*
monopole, " *mo-no-po-le.*
Except: *En*, at the beginning of a word, forms a syllable by itself.

Rule II: An inseparable combination of consonants, between two vowels, belongs to the same syllable with the latter vowel.

Examples: *vignoble*, divide thus, *vi-gno-ble.*
ivrogne, " *i-vro-gne.*
Exception: In a few particular words, such as *agnus*, *ignicole*, the *gn* is to be separated thus, *ag-nus*, *ig-ni-co-le.*

Rule III: Any assemblage of two consonants different from *ch*, *ph*, *rh*, *th*, and the inseparable combinations above quoted, must be separated, when found between two vowels. — Double consonants must be separated.

Examples: *respectable*, divide thus, *res-pec-ta-ble.*
annexion, " *an-nex-ion.* (*)
* As *x* stands for a separable assemblage (*ks* or *gz*), it cannot be separated from the vowel, by which it is preceded.

Rule IV: When three or four consonants meet between two vowels, they never belong to the same syllable.

N. B. This syllabic decomposition of words, without regard to derivation, is merely intended to facilitate the exposition of the rules concerning pronunciation.

TONIC ACCENT OR STRESS.

8. In pronouncing a word of more than one syllable, the French pass smoothly over each syllable, and throw the stress of the voice on either the last syllable or the last but one, according to the following rules: —

1st. When a polysyllable ends with a sounded consonant, such as *animal*, *colonel*, the stress lies on the last syllable, thus *animàl*, *colonèl.*

2d. If a word ends with a mute *e*, preceded by a consonant, such as *capitale*, *apostrophe*, the stress lies on the last syllable but one; thus, *capitàle*, *apostròphe.*

3d. When a word ends with a mute *e*, preceded by a vowel, such as *Marie*, the stress lies on that vowel, thus *Marìe.*

4th. When a word ends with a dipthong, *i. e.* two vowel sounds pronounced in the same breath, such as *Maria*, the stress lies on the last syllable but one, thus *Mària.*

5th. When a word ends with a silent consonant, preceded by a vowel different from *e*, such as *apostat*, *commissariat*, the stress lies on the vowel, which precedes the final consonant; thus, *apostàt*, *commissariàt.*

CHAPTER 1

PRONUNCIATION OF THE VOWELS.

§ 1. SIMPLE VOWELS.

	A	E	I	O	U	Y
	a	e	i	o	u	y
THEIR NAMES.	ah	a	e	o	* ee greck.	

* The French name of *u* is a sound, which cannot be conveyed by any combination of English letters, and must be learned from the lips of a living teacher.

N. B. In French as in English, vowels are sometimes *long*, sometimes *short*. Long vowels in French are frequently marked over with a circumflex accent (^).

A and O.

9. These two vowels are of the same nature. When unaccented and at the end of a syllable, or in conjunction with a consonant following, they are generally *short*.

10. Short *a* in French constantly takes the sound as heard in the English word — *rather*. Examples:

fa	fat	raf	abab
la	lac	cap	jalap
sa	sac	Dax	Ajax
va	val	rapt	naval
ta	tact	laps	hamac
ma	mat	malt	Bagdad
ha !	Ham	spath	Abraham

11. Short *o* sounds like the English *u*, as heard in the words *rub*, *mud*, *rum*, *fun*, *dull*. Examples:

dot	coco	Azof	lavabo
roc	solo	azoth	albora
lof	dodo	Jacob	alcohol
col	sofa	Maroc	caracol
coq	colza	Mogol	caporal
Job	comma	Prado	panorama

Exception: Mark, as so many exceptions to the preceding rule, the terminations

ar	ard	ars	art	are	arre	arrhe	
as	ase	aze	age	ave	avre	abre	ation

in which the vowel *a* is *long* and takes the sound, as heard in the English words — *far*, *father*.

Mark, moreover, that the final consonants *d*, *s* and *t* are silent after *r*, and that the terminations, contained in the first line, sound all alike and resemble in sound the English verb — *are*. Examples:

car	lard	bazar	avare
par	dard	hasard	amarre
art	jarre	bavard	Navarre
part	barre	canard	camarre
gars	carre	cafard	catarrhe

13. Unaccented *o* is long in the same positions with unaccented *a*, excepting, however, the termination *obre*, in which *o* is short.

Long *o* takes the sound as heard in the English words *home*, *stone*, *dole*, *sore*. Examples:

or	nord	abord	rapport
cor	port	alors	matador
tort	mors	accord	Labrador

Rem. The French *r*, before a sounded consonant, shortens the vowel by which it is preceded. Examples:

arc	Marmara	dorsal
parc	carnaval	normal

14. Exception II: The vowels *a* and *o* have each an accidental sound in the terminations *agne* and *ogne*,

which come pretty near the sounds of the English terminations *ang* and *oing*, as heard in the words *hang*, *going*. Examples:

bagne	Ascagne	cocagne
gagne	Pologne	charogne
trogne	Cologne	Gascogne

Rem. the vowels *a* and *o* preserve their usual sounds before *gn*, when followed by a vowel different from silent *e*; in which case the *gn* takes the sound, as heard in the English word — *mignonette.*

Examples: cognac, cagnard, grognard.

15. The vowels *a* and *o* preserve their usual sounds before final *n*, but are to be pronounced through the *nose*, and the *n* loses the sound it has in English. Examples:

an	ban	tan	Man	ortolan
on	bon	ton	mon	carafon

These *nasal* sounds, peculiar to the French tongue, can only be learned from the mouth of a native of France.

Mute E.

16. Unaccented *e*, at the end of a syllable, never takes the sound as heard in the English words *be*, *evil*, *apostrophe*, but is either entirely silent, or hardly heard when sounded. In either case it is called *mute.*

As a rule, mute *e* is silent, whenever it can be dropped in the pronunciation of a word.

Examples: *pclote*, *appcla*, *calebasse.*
Pronounce, plot, appla, calbass.

EXAMPLES OF SILENT *e* AND SHORT *a.*

date	datte	agate	astragale
cane	canne	arabe	caravane
gale	balle	agrafe	cataracte
pape	trappe	parade	camarade
face	masse	rafale	parallaxe
tache	chaste	cabane	amalgame
Saxe	naphte	satrape	paragraphe
lame	gamme	madame	anagramme

EXAMPLES OF SILENT *e* AND SHORT *o*.

note	cotte	arome	octogone
robe	goffe	capote	protocole
noce	golfe	galope	monotone
boxe	colle	parole	monopole
poche	nonne	corolle	monopode
poste	crosse	colonne	horoscope
mode	choppe	colosse	orthodoxe
Rome	homme	commode	apostrophe

SILENT *e* IN THE MIDDLE OF WORDS.

cela	cheval	matelote
sera	genope	camelote
fera	menace	casemate
jeton	menotte	casserole
selon	acheta	paperasse
melon	attela	hallebarde
chenal	alezan	Allemagne

17. When mute *e* cannot be dropped in the pronunciation of a word, it takes the dull sound of the English *e*, as heard in the word *battery*; or, which is the same, the sound of the English *a*, as heard in the word *idea*.

Examples: *grenade*, *crevasse*, *Bretagne*.
Pronounce, gre-nad, cre-vass, Bre-tang.

Rem. Final *e* mute, after an inseparable combination of consonants, is sounded, unless followed by a word which begins with a vowel or *h* mute.

Mark, moreover, that the final syllables *ble*, *bre*, *cle*, *cre*, etc., are not pronounced alike in both languages.

In French the mute *e* is heard after the combined consonants *bl*, *br*, etc.

EXAMPLES OF SOUNDED *e* MUTE.

ne	brelan	affable	rabattre
je	octobre	cadavre	cadastre
te	Grenoble	Calabre	balafre
le	opprobre	Hanovre	obstacle
me	malpropre	adorable	massacre

Open E.

18. The French *e*, when pronounced conjunctly with a consonant following, never takes the dull sound, as heard in the English words *camel*, *item*, *linen*, *water*, *hamlet*, but generally the plain sound, as heard in the English word — *hotel*.

This sound of *e* has been termed *open*, as it is pronounced with the mouth almost open. It takes place in the following positions : —

1st. Before any final consonant, when sounded (excepting the words *cet*, *en*, and the termination *en*, when preceded by a vowel). Examples : —

bec	avec	Babel	cartel
sec	oleb	Caleb	pastel
net	Alep	Alfred	pollen
sel	amen	Joseph	gramen
nef	appel	Hamlet	scalpel
chef	harem	Harlem	caramel

2d. Before *x*, wheresoever placed, and

3d. Before any separable assemblage of consonants, which does not begin with either *m* or *n ;* excepting the only word *mestre*. Examples : —

secte	delta	pectoral
peste	nectar	espagnol
Belge	adepte	heptagone
texte	vestale	respectable

4th. Before a double consonant, different from *mm*, *nn*, *rr*, *ss*. Examples : —

dette	gazette	sellette
selle	gazelle	peccable
pelle	semelle	betterave
greffe	bretelle	belladone
lettre	admettre	regrettable

5th. Before any double consonant, when followed by final *e* mute ; excepting the word *femme* (woman). Ex :

esse	renne	terre (*)	caresse
messe	lemme	verre	garenne
presse	gemme	serre	tonnerre

* Rem. Open E is *long* in the terminations *erre*, *erd*, *ers*, *ert*, all of which sound like the English word — *ere*.

This long open sound of *e* takes also place before final *r*, when sounded; as is the case in monosyllables. Ex:

fer	mer	vers	expert
ver	cher	vert	travers

Rem. II. Before a sounded consonant, the French *er* takes a *short* but plain, open sound, very different from the dull sound of the English *er*, as heard in the words *verb*, *mercy*, *liberty*. Examples: —

perte	adverbe	cervelle
perle	caverne	servage
ferme	serpette	paternel
Berne	perplexe	fraternel
tertre	thermal	serbocal

19. The open sound of *e* takes also place in all monosyllables ending with *es*, and in all words ending with *et*, excepting the words *et* and *cet*.

N. B. The final consonants *s* and *t* are silent after *e*, except in the words *cet*, *net*, *fret*, *tacet*. Examples: —

es	les	ballet	parapet
ces	ses	cachet	cabaret
des	tes	projet	alphabet
mes	jet	archet	serpolet

N. B. Mark that in monosyllables of this description, the *e* takes easily the sound of *ay*, as heard in the English words *may*, *day*.

Close E.

20. In contradistinction to *open e*, the French have *close e*, thus called from its being pronounced with a *lesser* opening of the mouth.

Close *e* sounds like the English *ay*, as heard in the word *day;* or, which is the same, like *a*, as heard in the English words — *navy*, *lazy*.

It constantly takes place before a final consonant, when silent and different from *s* and *t*.

Examples:	*eh!*	*clef*	*rez*	*parler*
Pronounce,	ay	clay	ray	parlay

Rem. I. Final *z* is always silent after *e*, except in proper names.

Ex: *nez* (nose) *allez* (go) *parlez* (speak)
chez (at the house of) *venez* (come) *donnez* (give)

Rem. II. Final *r* is silent, 1st, in all verbs ending, in the infinitive mood, with *er*. Examples: —

aller (to go) *parler* (to speak) *donner* (to give)

2d. In all words ending with *er*, preceded by a vowel, excepting *hier* (yesterday), *fier* (proud); and 3d, in nearly all words of more than one syllable ending with *er*, preceded by a consonant; excepting proper names of foreign languages.

21. The close sound of *e* is generally found before double *r*, when followed by a vowel different from mute *e*, and in most words beginning with *eff*, *ess*, *dess*. Ex:

ferrer *serrer* *dessert* *effacer*

Close *e* is also found in the words *et*, *mestre*, *messager*, *messieurs*.

Accidental Sound of E.

22. In all adverbs ending with *emment*, the *e* takes the sound of the French *a*.

Examples { *fervemment* (fervently) pronounce *fervamman*
{ *ardemment* (with ardor) " *ardamman*

This accidental sound of *e* takes also place before *mm*, *mn* and *nn* in the following words and their derivatives: —

nenni	hennir	rouennerie
femme	solennel	indemniser

23. In all verbs beginning with *emm*, *enn*, and their derivatives, the initial syllables *em* and *en* take a nasal sound equivalent to *an*.

Example: *emmarer* pronounce *an*-marer

Rem. In all cases different from those just mentioned, the *e* takes its usual *open* sound before *mm*, *mn* and *nn*.

Examples: *Emma*, *Lemnos*, *pennage*, *Agamemnon*.

I (i).

24. The French *i* never takes any of the sounds as heard in the English words *lime*, *sign*, *sir*, *sit*; but generally the sound of the English *e*, as heard in the words *be*, *he*.

Examples of short *i*.

pic	vice	rixe	cilice
cid	fiche	griffe	Sicile
vif	pipe	titre	livide
vil	file	fifre	divine
vis	frite	triple	limite
fisc	bride	chiffre	victime
brick	mine	siffle	Philippe
strict	crime	philtre	chimiste

EXAMPLES OF LONG *i*.

tir	tige	crise	Adige
lire	rive	brize	cerise
dire	libre	nadir	valise
cirrhe	livre	polir	salive

25. The French *ie*, when pronounced conjunctly with a consonant following, never takes the sound, as heard in the English words *grief*, *field;* but that of the English *ye*, as heard in the words *yes*, *yet*, *yell*. Examples:

ciel	grief	vielle	Dieppe
fiel	brief	sieste	Vienne
fief	relief	miette	chienne
fier	Daniel	pierre	assiette
hier	Gabriel	lierre	Italienne
miel	officiel	lierne	triennal

Rem. I. The individual sound of *i* is lost in the combinations *ai*, *ei*, *oi*. (See p. 18, No. 32.)

Rem. II. The vowel *i* has no accidental sound, but before *mb*, *mp* it forms, together with *m*, a nasal sound; which comes pretty near the English sound of *am*, as heard in the word *sample*. Examples: —

limbe *simple* *timbre*

This sound of *i* takes constantly place before *n*, unless followed by *h*, *n*, or a vowel. Examples: —

fin brin Inde mince infini

U.

26. This vowel loses its individual sound in the combinations *au*, *eu*, *ou*. (See p. 18, No. 32.)

Before final *n*, it forms a nasal sound, little different from the one represented by the French *in*. Ex:

un *brun* *alun* *chacun* *tribun*

27. *U* before final *m* is a substitute for short *o*, and consequently sounds like the English *u* in the word *rum*.

Ex:	album	lilium	minimum
	forum	opium	palladium
	sternum	sodium	potassium

Exc: The word *parfum* (perfume) sounds as if written *parfun*.

28. Between *g* and *a*, the French *u* takes the sound of the English *u*, as heard in the word — *guano*. Ex:

guano jaguar lingual Guatimala

Exception: In all terminations of a verb ending, in the infinitive mood, with *guer*, the *u* is silent; with the exception of *arguer*, in which the *gu* forms a distinct syllable.

When *u* is found between *g* and a vowel different from *a*, it is generally silent, and serves to give *g* the hard, guttural sound, as heard in the English words *guess*, *guilt*. Examples: —

guise	guitare	aguerrir
guide	guildive	guinguette
guerre	droguiste	Marguerite

Rem. Mark here the difference, in sound, between the final syllables *ge* and *gue*, as heard in the following examples: —

orge	doge	verge	prodige
orgue	dogue	vergue	prodigue

29. The vowel *u* is generally silent after *q*.

Examples:	*quel*	*quart*	*querelle*	*quiproquo*
Pronounce	kel	kar	krell	kiproko

When *u* is sounded, by exception, between *q* and *a*, as is the case in nearly all words beginning with *aqua*, *équa*, *quadr*, it takes the sound of the English *u*, as heard in the word *quality*. Examples: —

aquatique *aquatile* *aquarelle* *quadriflore*

30. In any position different from those above mentioned, the French *u* takes a sound, which is not found in English.

EXAMPLES OF SHORT *u*.

tuf	rude	lutte	curule
nul	lune	bulle	cupule
suc	luxe	truffe	jujube
sud	puce	huppe	pustule
luth	cube	cruche	culbute
brut	dupe	Prusse	tumulte
Turc	chute	nuque	guttural
musc	rhume	brusque	tubercule

Y.

31. The French *y*, when unconnected with a vowel preceding, stands for *i*, and is especially found in words derived from the Greek language; hence its name *i grec* (Greek i). Examples: —

type	pyrite	pyramide
style	idylle	polyglotte
cycle	sibylle	sycomore
Styx	polype	synonyme
myrte	syllabe	hypocrite
crypte	synode	apocryphe
cygne (*)	sylphide	hydrophobe

* Bear in mind that final *gne* in French sounds like final *ng* in English.

§ 2. COMPOUND VOWELS.

32. A *compound vowel* is a combination of two or three simple vowels, which together represent a *simple* sound. Such are

ai	*au*	*eau*	*œ*
ei	*eu*	*œu*	*ou*

33. *Ai* and *ei* are substitutes for *e*, except before *ll*, final *l*, and the consonants *m* and *n*, when nasal.

The usual sound of *ai* and *ei* is that of *open e*.

Examples: *laisse* *faite* *Leipsic* *Manheim*
Pronounce lesse fette Lepsic Manem

EXERCISES.

mai	air	neige	raifort
quai	aire	reine	reinette
vrai	aise	seize	baleine
lait (*)	aide	seigle	vinaigre
laid	aime	treize	vaisselle
paix	aigre	meigle	Sardaigne
mais	glaive	bleime	commissaire

* The final consonants *d*, *s*, *t* and *x* are silent after compound vowels.

Exception: *Ai* and *ei* take the sound of *close e*, 1st, before *gn*, when followed by a vowel different from *e* mute. Examples: —

beignet peigner baigner

2d. At the beginning of a word, when the next syllable contains a vowel different from *mute e* and *silent u*. Examples: —

aigu	aider	aigrette	aisselle
aigri	aimer	aimable	aiguade

3d. In the words *gai* (cheerful), *je sais* (I know), and at the end of a verb, as in *je donnai* (I gave), *je serai* (I shall be).

Exception II. *Ai* takes the sound of *e* mute, in the first syllable of the imperfect (je) *faisais*, and also in the words *faisons*, *faisant*, and compounds ending with *faisant*.

Examples:	*malfaisant*	*satisfaisant*
Pronounce	malfesan	satisfesan

34. *Au* and *eau* sound alike and are substitutes for *o*.

Examples:	*Paul*	*sauf*	*saur*	*taureau*
Pronounce	Pol	sof	sor	toro

EXERCISES.

eau	nigaud	haut	vaisseau
beau	badaud	saut	blaireau
peau	crapaud	faux	berceau
veau	maraud	chaux	morceau

35. *Eu* and *œu* sound alike. When short they sound like the English *u* in the words *snuff*, *shun*, *purse*. Ex:

œuf	seul	peuple
neuf	seule	Elbeuf
veuf	jeune	meurtre
bœuf	gueule	heurter

Eu and *œu*, when long, have no corresponding sound in English, excepting, however, the terminations *eur*, *eure*, *eurre*, *œur*, all of which come pretty near the sound of the English *ur*, as heard in the word — *cur*. Ex:

peur	heure	labeur	liqueur
cœur	leurre	babeure	vigueur
sœur	beurre	demeure	largeur

Eu and *œu*, before a silent consonant or at the end of a word, have no corresponding sound in English. Examples: — *peu feu vœu nœud deux peut*

N. B. *Eu* has an accidental sound equivalent to the French *u* in the words *gageure*, *mangeure*, at the beginning of a few proper names, and in such tenses and persons of the verb *avoir*, as begin with *eu*, including the past participle *eu*.

Rem. *E* and *u* form two distinct syllables in the word — *te-deum*.

36. *Œ* before a consonant or a vowel different from *u* and *i*, sounds like *close e*. Examples : —

fœtus *œsophage* *œnomel* *homœopathique*

Rem. When *o* and *e* are separated in type, they are to be pronounced separately. Ex : *moelle* *coexister.*
Pronounce, mo-elle co-exister.

37. *Ou* has one unvaried sound equivalent to the English *oo*, as heard in — *too*, *good*.

EXAMPLES OF SHORT *ou*.

cou	coude	poutre	joujou
fou	foule	couple	coucou
pou	pouce	soufre	redoute
sou	soupe	souffre	soucoupe
mou	mouche	souffle	courroux
trou	troussè	pourpre	trousseau

§ 3. DIPHTHONGS.

38. When two distinct vowel sounds are pronounced by a single emission of the voice, they form together what has been termed a *diphthong*. Such are

ie, as heard in *fiel*, *fief*, *fier*.
ua, " in *guano*, *aquatile*.

Rem. The sound of *ua* as heard in *guano*, when found after a consonant different from *g* and *q*, or at the beginning of a word, is represented sometimes by *oua*, sometimes by *oi*, never by *ua*, because after a consonant different from *g* and *q*, the *ua* sounds differently from what it does in the word *guano*. Examples : —

coite	boiteux	moine	doive
ouate	ouateux	douane	zouave

39. The combination *oi* generally sounds like *oua*, and is long and short in the same positions with *a*. Ex :

loi	toile	noir	paroi
roi	droite	poire	Poitou
moi	froide	noise	oiseau
soif	coiffe	boive	pivoine
poil	froisse	poivre	paroisse

Exception. The nasal diphthong *oin* differs from *ouan*, and is to be decomposed thus, *o-in*, which some pronounce *ou-in*. Ex :

loin *foin* *coin* *soin* *besoin*

Exception II. *Oi* stands for *o* in *oignon*, *moignon*, and in all words having *poign* for *root*, such as *poignet*, *poignard*, etc.

Rem. In all words different from those just mentioned, *oi* before *gn* preserves the sound of *oua*, and as *a* has an accidental sound before final *gne*, so has *oi* in a like position.

Examples:	*soigner*	*soigneux*	*soigne*
Pronounce	souagner	souagneux	souagne

40. All French diphthongs, excepting *oi*, are formed by placing *i*, *ou*, *u*, *y* before other vowels, in which case *i* and *y* take the sound of the English *y* as heard in *you*, *yard*, and *ou* takes that of the English *w* as heard in *west*, *akward*. Examples: —

fiole	paria	oui	yole
liane	papier	ouest	yeux
rieur	vitriol	fouine	hyade
piano	afioume	joueur	yeuse
violer	fabliau	noueux	myope
piaffer	glacial	brouette	yolithe
miauler	gracieux	trouelle	cyanure
chiourme	plagiaire	prouesse	dyadique

Rem. The French *u* before a vowel, aside from the combinations *gua* and *qua*, takes its usual sound, which sound, as has been observed already, cannot be conveyed by any combination of English letters. Mark here the difference in sound between *u* and *ou*, as illustrated in the following examples.

fuir	lueur	ruelle	suave
fouir	loueur	rouelle	zouave

EXERCISES.

duel	gluau	fuite	mutuel
cruel	gruau	huile	virtuel
muet	muette	ruine	annuaire
fluet	bluette	fluide	immuable

41. When *y* is found after *o* or *u*, it stands for two *i*'s, one of which forms a diphthong with the vowel preceding, and the other, with the vowel following.

Examples:	*loyal*	*moyenne*	*fuyard*
Pronounce,	loi-ial	moi-ienne	fui-iard

EXERCISES.

tuyau	noyer	essuyer	savoyard
joyau	voyez	nettoyer	royaliste
boyau	fuyez	appuyer	pitoyable
noyau	joyeux	voyager	corroyeur
aloyau	voyelle	tutoyer	pourvoyeur

42. *Ay* and *ey* before a vowel different from *e* mute, sound alike, and take the sound of a close *e* followed by *i*. Examples : —

payer	essayer	balayeur	rayonner
seyer	grasseyer	agreyeur	asseyez-vous

Rem. I. *Ay* takes the same sound in the words *abbaye*, *paye*, *paysan*, *paysage*, etc. In all other words *ay* before mute *e* or a consonant sounds like close *e*. Examples : — *paye* *laye* *layetier*

N. B. Mark the difference, in sound, between the preceding words and the following, in which the *ai* sounds like open *e* : —

paix *laie* *laitier*

Rem. II. In a few particular words, especially proper names, containing *ay* followed by a vowel, the *a* ends one syllable and the *y* begins the next.

Examples :	*Bayard*	*Cayenne*	*Lafayette*
Pronounce,	Ba-yard	Ca-yenne	Lafa-yette

Rem. III. When *ay* and *ey* are found at the end of a syllable they sound like *close e*. Examples : —

bey *dey* *Ney* *Jersey* *Corday*

§ 4. REMARKS ON THE NASAL SOUNDS.

43. The consonants *m* and *n*, in certain positions, are said to be *nasal*, because they serve to indicate that the vowels by which they are preceded, are to be pronounced through the *nose*. And as the consonants *m* and *n*, after nasalized vowels, lose their usual sounds, nasal expressions, such as *an*, *on*, etc., can strictly be considered as *vowels*.

N. B. The usual sounds of *a* and *o* are preserved in the nasal sounds *an* and *on* ; but the nasal sounds *in* and *un* have no similarity whatever with the proper sounds of *i* and *u*.

44. The consonant *n*, after a vowel, is nasal in the following positions : —

1st. At the end of a word, excepting the termination *en*, when preceded by a consonant.

2d. In all verbs beginning with *enh*, *enn*, and their derivatives, and also in the two verbs *enivrer*, *enorgueillir*, and their derivatives.

3d. Before any consonant different from *h* and *n*, excepting the only word *monsieur*, which sounds as if written — *mossieu*. Examples : —

Inde	lundi	intestin	gant (*)
onde	candi	girondin	long
onze	pantin	pantalon	banc
honte	ponton	fantassin	dans
pince	chanson	confession	sang
angle	Finlande	mandarin	grand
oncle	flandrin	instinctif	sphinx

* Final consonants different from *x* are generally silent after *n*.

45. There are only *four* different nasal sounds, but there are many more nasal expressions. For instance : *Ain*, *ein* and *yn* are substitutes for *in*. Examples : —

sain	saint	poulain	atteinte
sein	seing	syntaxe	peinture
vain	lynx	lyngode	vainqueur
main	maint	pharynx	syndical
plein	plains	saindoux	maintenant

46. *Eun* is a substitute for *un*, but it only occurs in the expression *à jeun*.

47. Nasal *en* sounds sometimes like *an*, sometimes like *in*. It sounds like *an* —

1st. In the word *en*.

2d. At the beginning of a word.

Examples :	*enfin*	*enhardir*	*ennuyer*
Pronounce,	an-fin	an-hardir	an-nuyer

3d. Between two consonants.

Examples :	*hareng*	*encens*	*sentiment*
Pronounce,	haran	ansan	santiman

4th. In the expression *ien*, when followed by a consonant different from *n*.

Examples :	*fiente*	*orient*	*audience*
Pronounce,	fiante	orian	audiance

Exception I : In the termination *ent*, denoting the third person plural of a verb, the *e* is *mute* and final *nt* silent.

Exc. II: *En* sounds like *in*, 1st, in the words

Mentor	*agenda*	*Benjamin*
pensum	*Rubens*	*pentarque*
Bengale	*Amiens*	*pentagone*

2d. In those tenses of the verbs *tenir*, *venir*, and their compounds, *retenir*, etc., where the roots of said verbs are changed into *tien*, *vien;* as,

je *tiens*	je *tiendrai*	*reviens*
il *vient*	il *viendra*	*maintiens*

3d. In compounds and derivatives of words ending with *ien*, such as

bienfait	*bienvenu*	*chiendent*

48. Final *en* preceded by a vowel, sounds like *in*, excepting the two proper names *Caen* and *Rouen*, which sound as if written *Can*, *Rouan*. Examples: —

bien	doyen	ancien	citoyen
chien	moyen	Adrien	mitoyen

Rem. I. There is no nasal sound in *chienne*, *citoyenne*, ils *tiennent*, *moyennant*, *ennemi*. *Enn* is only nasal at the beginning of verbs and their derivatives.

Rem. II. Final *en* is not nasal after a consonant, excepting, however, the two words *hymen* and *examen*, which are pronounced, by some, as if written *hymin*, *examin*.

49. The letter *n* is never found before *b* and *p*, except in the two words *bonbon*, *embonpoint;* but *m* before *b* and *p* is a substitute for nasal *n*.

Examples:	*camp*	*plomb*	*nymphe*
Pronounce,	can (*)	plon (*)	nynfe

* The final consonants *b* and *p* are silent after *m*, excepting the only word *rumb*, which sounds as if written — *rombe*.

50. Initial *em* is nasal in all verbs beginning with *emm* and their derivatives, but not in other words, such as *Emmanuel*, for instance: —

Nasal *em* constantly sounds like *an*, excepting the proper name *Memphis*, which sounds as if written — *Minfiss*. Examples: —

empire	emphatique	emmancher
embryon	tremblement	emmariner
ensemble	exemplaire	emmagasiner

51. Before a consonant different from *b*, *p*, or at the

end of a word, *m* is occasionally nasal; such is the case in the following words: —

faim	*thym*	*nom*	*comte*
daim	*Adam*	*renom*	*Rheims*
essaim	*parfum*	*pronom*	*Samson*

LINKING OF FINAL *n*.

52. When an adjective ending with nasal *n* is followed by a substantive beginning with a vowel, an additional *n* is heard at the beginning of the substantive. Ex:

bon ami	Pronounce	bon nami
vain espoir		vain nespoir
aucun enfant		aucun nenfant
commun accord		commun naccord

Any word beginning with a vowel (excepting *onze*), takes this additional *n*, 1st, after the words *mon*, *ton*, *son*; 2d, after *bien* and *rien*, unless used as substantives; 3d, after *on* and *en*, unless joined by a hyphen to a preceding word. Examples: —

mon ancien ami	*en aura*	*bien entendu*
mon nancien nami	en naura	bien nentendu

Rem. The word *un* before a substantive or adjective beginning with a vowel, is pronounced, by some, without a nasal articulation, as if a part of the next word. Example: —

un an (a year), pronounce *unan* (u-nan.)

53. The linking of final *n* takes also place before certain words beginning with *h*, in which case the *h* is said to be *mute*.

Examples:	*en hiver*	*bien habile*	*un homme*
Pronounce,	en niver	bien nabile	u-nomme

When final *n* is not to be linked before a word beginning with *h*, the *h* is called *aspirate*, although there be no real aspiration, as far as pronunciation is concerned.

Examples:	*un hibou*	*bien hardi*
Pronounce	un ibou	bien ardi

Rem. The verb *enivrer* and its derivatives are to be pronounced with a nasal articulation, linked to the *i*, as if written in two words (*en nivrer*.)

A similar remark applies to the verb *enorgueillir*. These two verbs are the only instances of a nasal *n* in the middle of a word before a vowel.

§ 5. ELISION OF FINAL *e* MUTE.

54. When one of the monosyllables, *de*, *je*, *le*, *me*, *ne*, *que*, *se*, *te*, is followed by a word which begins with a vowel or a mute *h*, final *e* of said monosyllable is suppressed and replaced by an *apostrophe*. Examples: —

l'ami	(the friend),	for *le ami.*
l'homme	(the man),	for *le homme.*
qu'avez-vous?	(what have you?)	for *que avez-vous?*

This is what the French grammarians call *elision.* The elision takes also place, 1st, in the words *quoique*, *quelque*, *jusque*, *lorsque*, *presque*, *puisque.* Examples: —

quelqu'un (somebody), for *quelque un.*
presqu'île (peninsula), for *presque-île.*

2d. Occasionally in the preposition *entre.* Examples: —

entr'acte *entr'ouvrir* *entr'aider*

3d. In the pronoun *ce* (it) before *en* and *est.*

Rem. The adjective *ce* (this) is changed into *cet*, before a vowel or mute *h.* (See page 27, No. 57, Rem.)

55. In all words different from the few above mentioned, final *e* mute is never elided, although constantly silent before a vowel or *h* mute.

Examples:	*libre arbitre*	*notre ami*	*quatre ans*
Pronounce,	libr' arbitre	notr' ami	quatr' ans

56. When final *e* mute is not elided in the monosyllables above quoted, it is sometimes silent, sometimes sounded, according to the following directions: —

1st. When the monosyllable is found at the beginning or end of a sentence, final *e* mute is sounded. Examples: —

Appelez-le.	*De qui parlez-vous?*
(Call him).	(Of whom do you speak?)

Exception: Final *e* is always silent in the pronouns *je* and *ce*, when placed, as subjects, after their verbs. Examples: —

Que dis-je? (what do I say?) pronounce *que dige?*
Que sera-ce? (what will it be?) " *que serace?*

2d. When two or three such monosyllables meet at the beginning of a sentence, the *e* of the second is silent. Examples: —

Je le sais (I know it), pronounce *je l'sais.*
Je ne le puis (I cannot), " *je n' le puis.*

Exception I: When the second monosyllable and the next word begin both with the same letter, as in *je te trouve*, the *e* is sounded.

Exc. II: Final *e* is never silent in the word *que*, wheresoever placed.

3d. When a monosyllable different from *que* is found in

the middle of a sentence, after a word ending with a nasal sound or a vowel sound, final *e* is silent. Examples: —

eau-de-vie	(brandy),	pronounce	*eau-d'vie.*
chemin-de-fer	(railroad)	"	*chemin-d'fer.*
qui me dit?	(who tells me?)	"	*qui-m'dit?*
Monsieur le maire	(Mister mayor),	"	*Mossieu-l'maire.*

§ 6. ADDITIONAL REMARKS ON *e* MUTE.

57. Unaccented *e* is mute in the following positions:

1st. At the end of a syllable, excepting a few Latin expressions, such as *veto*, *credo*, etc., in which the *e* is *close*.

2d. Before *a* and *o*, excepting Latin expressions, such as *exeat*, *confiteor*, etc., in which the *e* is *close*.

3d. Before final *s*, in words of more than one syllable. Examples: *Charles Jules Naples Londres*
Pronounce, Charl Jul Naple Londre

4th. Before final *nt*, denoting the third person plural of a verb. Examples: *elles chantent* (they sing)
Pronounce like elle chante (she sings)

5th. In nearly all words beginning with *ress*, and, finally, in the three words — *dessous*, *dessus*, *cet*.

Rem. The word *dessous* (underneath) is composed of the two prepositions *de* and *sous*, and the doubling of the *s* in the compound is intended to preserve the sharp hissing sound of initial *s* in *sous*.

A similar remark applies to *dessus* and to words beginning with *ress*. These are composed of the particle *re*, prefixed to words beginning with a sharp hissing *s*.

Examples:	*ressource*	*ressortir*	*ressaisir*
Composed of	re-source	re-sortir	re-saisir

As for the word *cet* (this), which is only found before a vowel or an *h* mute, it is *ce*, with a euphonic *t* added, to be linked to the next word. Examples: —

cet arbre (this tree) stands for *ce-t-arbre.*
cet homme (this man) " *ce-t-homme.*

58. Final *e*, when not elided, should be sounded, for the sake of euphony, in the words *quoique*, *quelque*, *presque*, *jusque*, *lorsque*, *puisque*, and in *que*; but in all other words ending with *sque* or *lque*, final *e* is silent. Ex:

basque	fresque	fantasque	bourrasque
casque	risque	burlesque	arabesque
flasque	brisque	grotesque	pittoresque
masque	brusque	moresque	romanesque
calque	kiosque	mollusque	catafalque

59. Mute *e*, before *a* and *o*, is constantly silent, and when preceded by *g*, it serves to give that letter the sound of the French *j*. Examples——

geai	asseoir	rougeole	flageolet
Jean	bougeoir	rougeaud	bourgeoisie
George	nageoire	vengeance	bourgeonner
orgeat	mangeable	obligeant	pigeonneau

60. Mute *e* is constantly silent in the terminations *gne* and *gnement*. Examples: —

digne	enseigne	dignement
ligne	empeigne	alignement
peigne	Sardaigne	enseignement

When the syllable *gne* is followed by a syllable different from *ment*, the mute *e* is sounded, and the *gn* takes the sound as heard in the English word — *mignonette*. Examples: —

vigneron *ligneralle* *ivrognerie*

61. When mute *e* is found in the middle of a word, after an inseparable combination of consonants different from *gn*, it is sounded. Examples: —

ladrerie	saugrenu	levreteau
sucrerie	autrefois	palefrenier
jonglerie	aigremore	accoutrement

62. When two mute *e*'s are separated by a single consonant, the latter *e* is silent, and the former sounded.

Examples: *ensevelir* *marqueterie*
Pronounce, en-se-vlir mar-ke-tri

EXERCISES.

rejeter	chevelu	ressemeler
relever	breveter	redemander
retenir	greneler	papeterie (*)
devenir	redevable	bonneterie
derechef	entretenir	briqueterie

* Notwithstanding the foregoing rule, laid down by the French Academy, the vulgar pronunciation of the words *papeterie, bonneterie*, etc.; is *paptri, bonntri*, etc.

63. Rem. When the words *notre* (our), *votre* (your), *quatre* (four), are followed by a word beginning with a consonant different from mute *h*, both *e* and *r* are silent.

Examples: *quatre fois* *notre maison*
Pronounce, kat fois not maison

CHAPTER II.

TYPOGRAPHIC MARKS OF THE VOWELS.

§ 1. ACCENTS — THEIR USE.

64. The word *accent* has, in the French grammar, a different meaning from what it has in the English. The French accent is a mark placed over a vowel, to indicate either its *sound* or its *length*.

There are three accents { the acute (´), as in . . *é*.
the grave (`), as in . . *è*.
the circumflex (^), as in *ê*.

65. The *acute* accent is only found over the vowel *e*, and denotes *close e*. Close *e* is only accented in such positions, as would give unaccented *e* the mute sound.

Examples: { *de* *le* *ne* *repare* *George*
dé *lé* *né* *réparé* *Géorgie*

EXERCISES.

thé	zélé	éthéré	déité (*)
gué	lésé	déréglé	réuni (*)
blé	péché	délégué	théorie
pré	régné	pénétré	plébéien
gré	réélu	dégénéré	Européen

* Mark that *éi* and *éu* are not compound vowels.

N. B. Great care should be taken not to confound the sounds of *éa*, *éé*, *éo*, etc., with those represented by *aya*, *ayé*, *ayo*, etc. These latter expressions are to be pronounced *éia*, *éié*, *éio*, etc., according to rule No. 42, p. 22. Examples: —

The words . . . *créer*, *créons*, *agréeur*,
differ in sound from *crayer*, *crayon*, *agreyeur*.

66. The *grave* accent is, with few exceptions, peculiar to the vowel *e*, and denotes *open e*. Open *e* is only accented in such positions, as would give unaccented *e* the mute sound.

Examples:	*nièce*	*pièce*	*diète*	*Xerxès*
Pronounce,	niesse	piesse	diette	Xerxesse

N. B. In writing, without a grave accent, the pronunciation of *niece, piece,* would be the same as in English, and that of *Xerxes* would be *Xerx*, according to rule No. 57 — 3d.

Rem. Final *s* after *è* is sounded in proper names, and silent in nearly all other words. Examples: —

Cérès	après	décès	succès
Narsès	cyprès	procès	congrès
Périclès	auprès	abcès	progrès

Rem. II. The vowel è is short, 1st, before the final syllables *ce, che, cle, fle, gle, gne, gue, pe, que, te.*

2d. When followed, in the same word, by more than one syllable. Examples: —

Grèce	espèce	nèfle	légèreté
flèche	calèche	trèfle	brièveté
règne	duègne	siècle	sévèrement
bègue	collègue	Sénèque	soulèvement
règle	espiègle	discrète	parallèlement

67. The vowel *ê* denotes *open e long*, and is found in such positions, as would render *è short.*

fête	évêque	rêverie	prêtre
pêche	honnête	pêcherie	vêpres
guêpe	conquête	vêtement	fenêtre

Rem. The circumflex accent serves to denote long vowels, and is found over all vowels, excepting *au, ei, y.*

Compound vowels and diphthongs, when accented, take the accent over the last component vowel, thus: *aî, eû, oî, oû, iâ,* etc.

§ 2. REMARKS ON LONG AND SHORT VOWELS.

68. A vowel is rendered long, 1st, by placing a mute *e* after it; 2d, by putting a circumflex accent over it, and doing away with the mute *e*. Examples: —

gaieté (†)	*gaiement*	*duement*	*dénouement*
gaîté (*)	*gaîment*	*dûment*	*dénoûment*

† *Aie* in the middle of a word, constantly sounds like *é* long.

* *Aî* constantly takes the sound of *ê*, excepting the two words *gaîté, gaîment,* in which it sounds like *é* long, as being a substitute for *aie.*

EXERCISES.

fëerie	gréement	dégréement
scierie	paiement	dévouement
suerie	ralliement	dévoiement
soierie	bégaiem nt	enrouement
rouerie	étayement	enjouement
layetier	essayerie	engouement

69. In some particular positions the length of a vowel is known without the assistance of either the circumflex accent or mute *e*. For instance:

Au and *eau* are generally long before any final syllable. Examples: —

aube	sauce	gaule	baume
aune	gauche	faute	rauque
autre	Claude	taupe	gaufre

N. B. Compare this broad sound of *au* with the short sound of *o*, as heard in the words

robe	Rome	notre	parole
noce	mode	votre	Europe
poche	note	coque	monotone

70. All vowels are long before the final syllables *ge*, *re*, *se*, *ze*, *ve*, *vre*, before final *r*, when sounded, and before final *rre*, *rrhe*. Examples: —

liége	rouge	alèze	cortége
piége	louve	mélèze	collége
siége	myrrhe	topaze	déluge
lièvre	Louvre	trapèze	subterfuge

Rem. In the words *mûr* (ripe), and *sûr* (sure), which sound exactly like *mur* (wall), and *sur* (on), the circumflex accent is merely intended as a mark of distinction.

In the word *piqûre*, which was formerly written *piquure*, the circumflex accent indicates the contraction of the two *u*'s into one.

In the words *âge*, *mûre*, *rêve*, and a few others, the circumflex accent is preserved, because it is found in their derivatives *âgé*, *mûrier*, *rêver*, etc.

71. The vowel *è*, and its substitutes *ai* and *ei*, are rather long before the final syllables *le*, *me*, *ne*. Hence the terminations *èle*, *aile*, *ème*, *aime*, *eime*, *ène*, *aine*, *eine*, do not sound exactly like *elle*, *emme*, *enne*. Examples:

zèle	haine	fidèle	haleine
cène	peine	hygiène	vilaine
thème	bleime	problème	semaine

72. Any unaccented vowel different from *ai*, *ei*, *au*, is short before the final syllables *le*, *me*, *ne;* consequently when a long vowel occurs before final *le*, *me*, *ne*, recourse must be had to the circumflex accent.

Examples of long and short vowels in similar positions: —

pale	*jeune*	*Rome*	*lame*	*cane*
pâle	*jeûne*	*dôme*	*blâme*	*crâne*

EXERCISES.

île	geôle	drôle	abîme
âne	mâle	dîme	infâme
cône	soûle	mânes	aumône

Exception: Unaccented *a* is long in the words *réclame*, *hippopotame*, and *ame*, which latter word is also written *âme*.

73. Before any final syllable different from those mentioned in No. 70 and 71, all unaccented vowels, excepting *au*, are *short*, for which reason, long vowels in any of said positions must be marked over with a circumflex accent.

Examples of long and short vowels in similar positions: —

tâche	*faîte*	*nôtre*	*mâtin*	*côté*
tache	*faite*	*notre*	*matin*	*coté*

EXERCISES.

pâte	âtre	épître	bâton
gîte	âcre	apôtre	hôtel
hôte	âpre	débâcle	bâtard
pâque	bâfre	douceâtre	château
grâce	maître	rougeâtre	châtain
lâche	goître	bleuâtre	traîneau
fraîche	cloître	connaître	détrôné

Exceptions: Unaccented *o* is long in *momie* and the termination *otion*. Unaccented *a* is long in the termination *ation* and in the following words: —

jadis	crabe	lacer	espacer
espace	cadre	cadrer	accabler
maçon	rafle	rafler	clameur

74. When a long vowel is followed, in the same word, by more than one syllable, it always takes the circumflex accent; because unaccented vowels, in a similar position, are always short.

Examples of long and short vowels in similar positions : —

lâcheté	*chômage*	*clôture*	*drôlerie*
tacheté	*fromage*	*roture*	*volerie*

EXERCISES.

âcreté	rôtisseur	pâtisserie
âpreté	hâblerie	rabâchage
pâture	mâtineau	hôtellerie
brûlure	bâtiment	bâtonniste
mâchoire	châtiment	enrôlement
châtaigne	frôlement	tâtonnement
blâmable	abâtardir	rafraîchissement

75. Long vowels are occasionally found before double *s*, but they do not take the circumflex accent, except in the words *châsse*, *châssis*, *enchâssé*.

Unaccented *a*, *ai*, and *o*, before *ss*, are long, 1st, in the derivatives of the adjectives *bas*, *las*, *gras*, *gros*, *épais*. Examples : —

lasse	lasser	lassitude	délassement
basse	baisse	bassesse	bassement
grasse	graisse	engraisser	grassement
grosse	grossir	grossier	grossièreté
épaisse	épaissir	épaisseur	épaississement

2d. In the following words : —

tasse	tasser	caisse	fosse
nasse	casser	passer	fossé
classe	classer	passion	dossier

N. B. Unaccented *a* is moreover long in the words *Anne*, *flamme*, *damner*, *Jacques*.

Rem. I. Nasal sounds only take the circumflex accent in the following words : (nous) *vînmes*, *tînmes* ; (vous) *vîntes*, *tîntes* ; (qu'il) *vînt*, *tînt*.

Rem. II. Capital vowels are never accented ; hence in proper names beginning with *E*, the sound and length of the initial vowel can only be known by analogy. For instance, *E* sounds like *è* in *Eve*, and like *é* in *Emile*, *Edouard*, *Esope*, *Egypte*.

Rem. III. Sometimes, and especially in words ending with *ât*, *êt*, *ôt*, such as *mât*, *forêt*, *impôt*, etc., the circumflex accent indicates the suppression of an *s*, which is still preserved in the corresponding English words *mast*, *forest*, *impost*, taken from the old French.

Rem. IV. Accented vowels, different from *é*, are seldom found at the end of a word ; and when they do occur in that position, they are pronounced, as if unaccented ; their accents being merely intended as a mark of distinction.

For instance, the words *à* (at), *là* (there), *çà* (here), *où* (where), *dû* (due), *crû* (grown), *tû*, sound exactly like the words *a* (has), *la* (the), *ça* (that), *ou* (or), *du* (of the), *cru* (believed), and *tu* (thou).

Add to these the words *déjà*, *holà*, *voilà*, *Pô*, and they complete the list of all the words ending with an accented vowel different from *é*.

Mark, moreover, that the grave accent over *a* and *u* is only found in the few words above quoted.

§ 3. DIÆRESIS.

76. When *i* and *u* are marked over with a diæresis (··), they are to be pronounced separately from the vowels *a* and *o*, by which they are always preceded.

Examples: *haïr* *Saül* *Moïse* *Achéloüs*
Pronounce, ha-ir, Sa-ul Mo-ise Akélo-us

EXERCISES.

aïeul	païen	Haïti	Héloïse
coïer	boïard	caraïbe	biscaïen
laïque	faïence	copaïer	baïonnette
stoïque	héroïque	Ismaïl	cristalloïde
caïman	mosaïque	camaïeu	coïncidence

77. The diæresis is also found over *e*, in words ending with *guë*, and indicates that the *u* is to be sounded, but final *ë* is silent. Examples: —

ciguë	*exiguë*	*ambiguë*
aiguë	*contiguë*	*besaiguë*

N. B. In writing, without a diæresis, *cigue*, *exigue*, etc., the pronunciation of said words would be *cig*, *exig*.

78. The diæresis is occasionally found over *e*, when preceded by *a* or *o*, as in *Noël*, *Israël*; but there is no obvious reason for this mark in the examples quoted, as *a* and *o* preserve their individual sounds before any vowel different from *i*, *u*, *y*.

Examples: *Chanaan* *Pharaon* *zoophyte* *moelleux*
Pronounce, Kana-an Phara-on zo-ophyte mo-elleux

EXERCISES.

boa	Moab	cloaque	oolite
aéré	Raoul	coasser	zoologie
cacao	Roboam	croasser	zootomie
croate	Phaéton	aérolithe	épizootique
casoar	Zoroastre	aéronaute	extraordinaire

N. B. Mark, moreover, that *o* is long in the initial syllable *co*. Examples: —

coégal	*coaguler*	*coaccusé*	*coadjuteur*
coactif	*coopérer*	*coaliser*	*coordonner*

Exception: *A* is silent in *août*, *aoriste*, *Saône*, *taon*, *curaçao*, and *o* is silent in *faon*, *paon*, *Laon*.

Exception II. In a few proper names, such as *Aaron*, *Isaac*, *Baal*, *Waterloo*, *Berg-op-zoom*, double *a* stands for long *a*, and double *o* for long *o*.

79. As the diæresis is sometimes needlessly put over *e*, so it is sometimes omitted in positions, where it is most needed. I am alluding to the case of sounded *u* after *g* and *q*, aside from the few words ending with *guë*.

The vowel *u* preserves its peculiar French sound,

1st. In all the inflections of the verb

arguer (pronounce) *argu-é*.

2d. In all derivatives of the words *aigu*, *ambigu*, *exigu*, *contigu*; such as

ambiguité	*exiguité*	*aiguille*
contiguité	*aiguiser*	*aiguillon*

3d. In the following words: —

questeur	*équestre*	*équiangle*
questure	*équitation*	*équidistant*
quintuple	*liquéfier*	*équilatéral*

Rem. The vowel *u* takes the sound of the English *w*

1st. In *liquation*, *loquacité*, *in-quarto*, *quartz*.

2d. In all words beginning with *aqua*, *équa*, *quadr*, (except, however, the words *quadrille*, *équarrir*, in which the *u* is silent).

3d. Between *g* and *a*, excepting verbs.

EXAMPLES.

équation	*quadruple*	*Guadeloupe*
équateur	*quadrupède*	*aqua-tinta*
équatorial	*quadrilatère*	*aquatique*
quadrature	*quadragésimal*	*Guadalquivir*

CHAPTER III.

PRONUNCIATION OF THE CONSONANTS.

80. There are, in French as in English, a great many words containing silent consonants; but the positions in which silent consonants occur, are very different in both languages. For instance, in all words beginning with *cz*, *gn*, *kn*, *ps*, *pt*, *phth*, the initial consonants *c*, *g*, *k*, *p*, *ph*, are silent in English and sounded in French.

81. In French, initial consonants, different from *h*, are constantly sounded. Examples: —

czar	*gnomon*	*Ptolémée*	*pseudonyme*
knout	*ptilose*	*psalmodie*	*knyphonisme*
psaume	*phthisie*	*mnémonique*	*psychologie*

82. Again, in French as in English, the plural of a substantive is generally formed by adding an *s* to the singular; but this final *s*, which is constantly sounded in English, is constantly silent in French.

83. As a rule, there is no difference in sound between the plural of a noun and its singular, provided there be no difference in orthography, aside from final *s*. Ex:

cités	(cities)	sounds	exactly	like	*cité*	(city).
faces	(faces)	"	"	"	*face*	(face).
fils	(threads)	"	"	"	*fil*	(thread).
parcs	(parks)	"	"	"	*parc*	(park).
bouchers	(butchers)	"	"	"	*boucher*	(butcher).

Exception: In the plural nouns *œufs*, *bœufs*, *nerfs*, *échecs*, *faits*, the letters *f*, *c*, and *t* are silent, together with final *s*; whereas *f*, *c* and *t* are sounded in the singular nouns, *œuf*, *bœuf*, *nerf*, *échec*, *fait*.

Rem. Singular nouns ending with *s*, *x* or *z*, remain unalterable in the plural; these final consonants are generally silent; but when sounded, by exception, in the singular, as is the case in *fils* (son), *ours* (bear), *gaz* (gas), *phénix*, etc., they are sounded in the plural also.

§ 1. FINAL CONSONANTS PRECEDED BY VOWELS.

84. Compound consonants, at the end of a word, are sounded. Examples: —

varech	*Joseph*	*bismuth*
Munich	*zénith*	*Goliath*

Exception: *Ch* is silent in *almanach*, and *th*, in *Goth, Visigoth, Ostrogoth.*

85. The final consonants *b*, *c*, *f*, *g*, *k* and *q*, are sounded after all vowels, simple and compound. Ex:

lof	*bouc*	*zigzag*	*bivouac*
coq	*joug*	*radoub*	*Calmouk*

Exception: Final c is silent in

broc	*croc*	*accroc*	*tabac*	*cotignac*
cric	*escroc*	*raccroc*	*estomac*	*caoutchouc*

Final *f* is silent in *clef*, *œuf*, and in the numeral *neuf*, when followed by a substantive, or adjective beginning with a consonant different from *h* mute.

Examples:	*clef*	*neuf maisons*	*neuf héros*
Pronounce,	clé	neu maisons	neu héros

N. B. Although final *f* be generally sounded in the words *chef*, *œuf*, *bœuf*, it is silent in the expressions

chef-d'œuvre, *bœuf gras*, *œuf dur.*

86. The final consonants *d* and *x* are silent after compound vowels and diphthongs; excepting the proper name *Aix.*

Examples:	*pied*	*sied*	*muid*	*trépied*
Pronounce,	pié	sié	mui	trépié

Final *d* and *x* are sounded after simple vowels; excepting, however, the words *nid*, *prix*, *flux*, *reflux*, *perdrix*, *crucifix.*

EXERCISES.

cid	David	Bagdad	index
sud	éphod	Alfred	préfix
Styx	talmud	Madrid	Pollux

87. The final consonants *p*, *s*, *t* and *z* are generally silent after all vowels, simple and compound; but especially after compound vowels and diphthongs.

Examples:	*drap*	*trop*	*riz*	*lit*	*dos*	*chat*
Pronounce,	dra	tro	ri	li	do	cha

EXERCISES.

repas	état	coup	acabit
souris	habit	loup	avocat
dispos	tricot	galop	ananas
camus	début	sirop	paradis
dissous	surtout	beaucoup	cantaloup

Exception: Final *p* is sounded in *cap*, *jalap*, *julep*, and in proper names.

Exception II. Final *z* is sounded in *gaz*, and in proper names ending with *ez;* such as *Rhodez*, *Suez*, *Natchez*.

Exception III. Final *t* is sounded in words borrowed from Latin verbs, such as *exeat*, *déficit*, *prétérit*, *accessit*, *tacet*, etc., and also in the following words: —

fat	*net*	*sot*	*lut*	*rit*	*granit*	*occiput*
mat	*fret*	*dot*	*brut*	*knout*	*comput*	*azimut*

N. B. Final *t* is sounded in the adverb *soit* (be it so), and in the substantive *fait* (fact); but in the past participle *fait*, and in *soit*, when *conjunction* or *verb*, final *t* is silent.

Rem. Final *t* is sounded in the numeral *huit*, unless followed by a substantive or adjective beginning with a consonant different from *h* mute.

Exception IV: Final *s* is sounded, 1st, in *as*, *atlas*, *hélas!* and in all proper names ending with *as;* excepting *Judas*, *Thomas*, *Nicolas*.

2d. In *florès*, *profès*, *aloès*, *kermès*, *cortès*, and in all proper names ending with *ès*.

3d. In proper names of foreign languages ending with *is* and *ys;* such as *Pâris*, *Adonis*, *Sémiramis*, *la Lys*, etc., and in the following words: —

vis	*iris*	*maïs*	*oasis*
lis (*)	*jadis*	*métis*	*cacis*
bis (*)	*lapis*	*gratis*	*tournevis*

* Final *s* is silent in the compound *fleur-de-lis*, and in the adjective *bis*.

4th. In *pathos*, *rhinocéros*, and in all proper names of foreign languages ending with *os;* such as *Minos*, *Athos*, etc.

5th. In all substantives of more than one syllable *ending* with *us;* such as *obus*, *virus*, *Vénus*, *omnibus*, etc., excepting, however, the substantives *abus*, *talus*, *verjus*.

6th. In *motus*, *sus*, *en-sus*, *plus* (plus), and in *plus* (more), when immediately followed by *que* (than), or when at the end of a sentence which contains no negative word. Examples: —

a *plus* b	*plus*-que-parfait
plus que vous	j'en ai *plus*

N. B. In all positions different from those just mentioned, final *s* is silent in *plus*. Examples: —

non *plus* je n'en ai *plus*
plus de trois *plus* grand que vous

7th. Final *s* is sounded in the plural adjective *tous*, when at the end of a sentence, or when not closely connected, in sense, with a word following; as in the sentence, — nous sommes *tous* mortels.

N. B. Final *s* is silent in *tous*, when closely connected in sense with a word following, as is the case before numerals, or one of the words *ces, les, mes, tes, ses, nos, vos, leurs*. Examples: —

Tous deux *tous les jours* *tous mes livres*

88. Final *l* is sounded (as in English) after all vowels different from *i;* and final *r*, after all vowels different from *e*.

Exception: *soûl* *monsieur* *cul-de-jatte* *cul-de-lampe*
Pronounce, sou *mossieu* cu-d'jatte cu-d'lampe

Mark that the word *pluriel* is pronounced, by some, *plurié*.

89. Final *r*, preceded by *e*, is sounded in the following positions: —

1st. In all monosyllables (not verbs). Examples:

cher *fer* *mer* *ver* *fier* *hier*

2d. In proper names of foreign languages; excepting those which end with *ier*. Examples: —

Niger *Luther* *Jupiter*
Oder *Glauber* *Lucifer*

3d. In the following words: —

éther *enfer* *frater* *belvéder*
hiver *pater* *cançer* *magister*
amer *gaster* *partner* *outremer*

N. B. Everywhere else final *er* sounds like *é*, excepting, however, the word *quaker*, which is pronounced *couacre*.

90. Final *il*, preceded by a consonant, takes the sound as heard in the English words *ill, bill, still*, —

1st. In all adjectives different from *gentil* (gentle). Ex:

vil *civil* *subtil* *volatil*
mil *viril* *puéril* *bissextil*

2d. In the substantives *Nil, fil, profil, exil, pistil*.

Final *l* is silent in the adjective *gentil* (gentle), and in the following substantives: —

baril *fenil* *chenil* *coutil* *fournil*
fusil *outil* *persil* *sourcil* *nombril*

N. B. Although final *l* be generally sounded in the pronoun *il*, it is silent in a few expressions, such as *plait-il? s'il vous plait, comme il faut*.

91. Rem. Final *l* takes what the French grammarians call a *liquid* sound, in the substantives

cil	*avril*	*péril*	*Brésil*
gril	*babil*	*grésil*	*gentil* (gentile)

and in all words in which final *il* is preceded by a vowel, different from *o*.

N. B. The *liquid* sound of *l*, when at the end of a word, cannot be conveyed by any combination of English letters; but when it is found in the middle of a word, it can exactly be represented by the English *y*, as heard in the word *lawyer*.

Examples:	*gentilhomme*	*Milhaut*
Pronounce,	genti-yomme	Mi-yaut

§ 2. FINAL CONSONANTS PRECEDED BY CONSONANTS.

92. The final consonants *f*, *k* and *l* are sounded after *r*, and final *x* after *n*. Examples: —

nerf	*schirl*	*lynx*	*larynx*
serf	*schorl*	*sphinx*	*Danemark*

Exception:	*cerf-volant*	*nerf-de-bœuf*	*corne-de-cerf*
Pronounce,	cervolant	nère-de-bœuf	corne-de-cère

93. Any final consonant different from *f*, *k*, *l* and *x*, is generally silent after *m*, *n* and *r*.

Examples:	*marc*	*clerc*	*porc*	*arc-boutant*
Pronounce,	mar	cler	por	ar-boutan

EXERCISES.

banc	rond	long	dans	ajonc
jonc	fond	rang	sans	étang
tronc	blond	sang	gant	hareng
flanc	gland	seing	camp	oblong
franc	grand	poing	champ	aplomb
blanc	quand	coing	plomb	Colomb

Exceptions: Final *b* is sounded in *rumb* (pron. *rombe*).

Final *c* is sounded in *zinc*, *parc*, *turc*; in *arc*, when unconnected with *boutant*, and in *donc*, when found at the beginning of a sentence.

Final *ch* is sounded in *punch* (pron. *ponche*).

Final *d* sounds in *Sund* (pron. *Sonde*).

Final *g* sounds in proper names ending with *berg*; such as *Spitzberg*, etc., and in the simple word *bourg*; but is silent in all compounds ending with *bourg*, such as *faubourg*, *Strasbourg*, *calembourg*.

Final *q* is sounded in the numeral *cinq*, unless immediately followed by a substantive or adjective beginning with a consonant different from *h* mute.

Final *s* is sounded in the words *mœurs, mars, ours, cens, sens*; excepting, however, the expressions *bon sens, sens commun.*

Final *s* is also sounded in the proper names *Mons, Rheims, Rubens, Anvers.*

Rem. In a few proper names ending with *iers*, such as *Poitiers, Louviers*, etc., both *s* and *r* are silent, and the *e clos*, as in plural nouns or adjectives, which in the singular end with *ier.*

94. When an assemblage of two consonants is found at the end of a word after *m*, *n*, or *r*, both consonants are silent. Examples: *corps, vingt temps*
Pronounce, cor vin tan

EXERCISES.

fonds	exempt	instinct	longtemps
prompt	remords	distinct	printemps

Exception: Final *ct* is sounded in *succinct*, and final *t* in all compound numerals between 20 and 30; such as *vingt-neuf*, for instance.

95. Final *ps* is sounded after a vowel. Examples:
laps relaps biceps forceps Cécrops

But when final *s* is preceded by a consonant different from *p*, *n*, *r*, it is silent, together with the consonant preceding. Ex: *lacs legs mets poids pouls puits*
Pr. la lè mè poi pou pui

Exception: The word *fils* is pronounced *fiss.*

96. When a consonant different from *n* and *r* is placed between a vowel and final *c* or final *t*, it is sounded, together with the final consonant. Examples: —

fisc	tact	exact	direct
busc	rapt	intact	correct
musc	mast	contact	infect
talc	malt	indult	abject
strict	spalt	cobalt	ouest

Exception: In the words *yacht, Utrecht, Mastricht*, final *t* is silent, but the *ch* sounded (like *k.*)

In the numeral *sept* (seven), the *p* is constantly silent; but the *t* is sounded, unless followed by a word beginning with a consonant different from *h* mute.

Final *st* is silent in the verb *est* (is), and in *Jésus-Christ*; but sounded in the substantive *est* (east), and in *Christ.*

Final *gt* is silent in *doigt*, and *ct* in *aspect, respect, suspect, circonspect, amict.*

§ 3. SILENT CONSONANTS IN THE MIDDLE OF WORDS.

97. *D* is silent in compound words beginning with *grand'*. Examples : —

grand'mère *grand'messe* *grand'rue*

98. *G* is silent in the words

signet	*sangsue*	*longtemps*
doigté	*vingtaine*	*vingtième*

99. *L*, which is liquid in the singular nouns *ail*, *gentilhomme*, is silent in the plural nouns *aulx*, *gentilshommes*.

100. *M* is silent in *automne*, and sounded in its derivative *automnal*. *M* is moreover silent in *damner* and its derivatives *damnation*, *condamner*, etc.

101. *P* is silent in *sept*, *septième*, *septièmement ;* and sounded in all other words beginning with *sept*, such as *septante*, *Septembre*, etc.

P is sounded in *baptismal*, and silent in all other words of the same root ; such as *baptême*, *baptiser*, *Baptiste*, etc.

P is sounded in *exemption*, and silent in all other words of the same root ; such as *exempte*, *exempter*.

Finally, *p* is silent in *sculpter*, *dompter*, *compter*, *prompt*, and all their derivatives, such as

sculpteur	*compte*	*comptoir*	*promptitude*
sculpture	*prompte*	*comptable*	*indomptable*

T is silent in *hautbois*.

§ 4. LINKING OF FINAL CONSONANTS.

102. When a word, ending with a silent consonant, is followed by a word beginning with a vowel or *h* mute, the final consonant of the former word is frequently heard at the beginning of the latter. For instance : —

chez elle	pronounce	ché zelle
trop ardent		tro pardent
cent ans		cen tans
vingt ans		vin tans

This is what the French grammarians call *liaison*, or linking of final consonants.

Rem. The consonants *c* and *g*, when thus linked, sound like *k*; *s* and *x* like *z*, and *d* like *t*. Examples: —

porc-épic		por képic
sang humain		san kumain
grand homme	pronounce	gran thomme
nos amis		no zamis
deux heures		deu zeures

103. The linking never takes place after *et* (and).

Examples: *Adam et Eve* *vingt-et-un*
Pronounce, Adam é Eve vin té un

Nor in the expressions

quatre-vingt-un (81) *cent un* (101)
quatre-vingt-onze (91) *cent onze* (111)

Aside from these exceptions, the linking constantly takes place after *numerals* and *conjunctions*.

Examples: *quatre-vingts hommes* *quand il voudra*
Pronounce, quatre-vin zommes quan til voudra

104. The linking of final consonants takes, moreover, place, 1st, after the articles *les*, *des*, *aux*, and all monosyllables ending with *es*; such as *mes*, *tes*, *ses*, *ces*. Ex:

aux armes *les actions des hommes*

Exception: No linking takes place in the expressions *les oui*, *sur les onze heures*, *sur les une heure*.

2d. After the pronouns *nous*, *vous*, *ils*, *elles*, *eux*, and their corresponding adjectives *nos*, *vos*, *leurs*. Ex:

nous avons *elles y vont avec leurs enfants*
vous avez *que vous a-t-on dit?*
ils ont *on ne nous a rien dit*

3d. After prepositions. Examples: —

chez elle, *sans argent*, *quant à moi*, *sous un petit volume*.

4th. After adverbs, when closely connected, in sense, with the words following. Examples: —

pas encore *nouvellement arrivé*
très adroit *beaucoup inférieur*

5th. After an adjective, when followed by a substantive or a word used as a substantive. Examples: —

franc étourdi *saint esprit* *premier acte*
grand enfant *long ouvrage* *dernier espoir*

6th. After a verb (the infinitive excepted), when followed by a preposition, an adverb, or a pronoun subject. Examples: —

est-il? *sont-elles?* *disent-ils?* *dit-on?*

7th. After a substantive, when joined to the next word by a hyphen. Examples : —

porc-épic	*croc-en-jambe*
guet-apens	*pot-au-feu*
Pont-Euxin	*pied-à-terre*

Rem. After a substantive, the linking takes only place in a few expressions of a particular form; such as

de pied en cap	*du blanc au noir*
de but en blanc	*de haut en bas*
de fond en comble	*de long en large*

§ 5. ADDITIONAL REMARKS ON THE CONSONANTS.

105. *B* (*b*) uniformly sounds as in English. Before *c*, *t* and sharp, hissing *s*, it takes, as in English, the sound of a slender *p*. Examples : —

subtil *obscur* *abstrait* *obconique*

106. *C* (*c*) before *e*, *i*, *y*, constantly takes the hissing sound, as heard in the English words *vice*, *city*.

Examples :	*océan*	*vicieux*	*official*
Pronounce,	osséan	vissieux	offissial

Ç (*c* with a cedilla underneath) is a substitute for hissing *c* before *a*, *o* and *u*. Examples : —

cabeça	*façade*	*François*	*façonnier*
Açores	*perçoir*	*français*	*caparaçon*
gerçure	*aperçu*	*soupçon*	*maçonnerie*

C (*c* without a cedilla) sounds like *k*, 1st, before *a*, *o*, *u*; 2d, at the end of a word; and 3d, before a consonant different from *h*.

Exceptions :	*second*	*secrétaire*	*reine-Claude*
Pronounce,	zgond	zgrétaire	reine-Glaude

In accordance with the preceding rules, *cc* before *e*, *i*, *y*, sounds like *ks*. Examples : —

accès	*accent*	*accessible*	*accepter*
succès	*accident*	*accessoire*	*accélérer*
vaccine	*occident*	*successeur*	*occipital*
accise	*occision*	*exsuccion*	*succinique*
succin	*successif*	*accenser*	*succinctement*

107. *Ch* (*ch*) before a consonant, uniformly sounds like *k*. Examples: —

Christ	*chronique*	*cochléaria*	*anachronisme*
chrome	*technique*	*ichtyophage*	*achromatique*

Exception: The word *drachme* is pronounced *dragme*.

Before a vowel, the French *ch* generally sounds like *sh* in English. Examples: —

chimie	*archives*	*anarchie*
chimère	*architecte*	*monarchie*

Exception: *Ch* sounds like *k*, 1st, in the words

chœur	*écho*	*chiragre*	*anachorète*
chorus	*chaos*	*ichoreux*	*catéchumène*
choriste	*lichen*	*archange*	*chiromancie*
chorége	*orchestre*	*Archangel*	*eucharistie*
archonte	*archaïsme*	*archétype*	*psychologie*

2d. After *c*. Examples: —

Bacchus	*bacchanal*	*saccholactique*
bacchante	*saccharin*	*Civita-Vecchia*

3d. In words beginning with *chili*, (meaning *thousand*, in Greek); such as *chiliarque*, *chiliade*, etc.

4th. In proper names of Italian and ancient origin; such as

Machiavel	*Chio*	*Chaldée*	*Pulchérie*
Michel-Ange	*Achab*	*Chanaan*	*Antiochus*
Tycho-Brahé	*Achaïe*	*Chersonèse*	*Anacharsis*

Rem. Final *ch* sounds like the English *sh* in *Auch*, *punch*, *kirsch*, and like *k* in all other words; such as *Munich*, *carech*, etc.

108. *D* (*d*) and *F* (*f*) sound respectively as in English; excepting the numeral *neuf* (nine), which is pronounced *neuv* before a substantive or an adjective beginning with a vowel or *h* mute.

Examples:	*neuf hommes*	*neuf aimables filles*
Pronounce,	neuv hommes	neuv aimables filles

109. *G* (*g*) before *e*, *i*, *y*, constantly takes the accidental sound of the English *z*, as heard in the word *azure*.

Before *a*, *o*, *u*, at the end of a word or before a consonant different from *n*, it takes the guttural sound, as in English.

Exceptions:	*gangrène*	*bourg*
Pronounce,	kangrène	bourk

Rem. I. In accordance with the preceding rule, *gg* before *e* and *i*, contains both sounds. Examples: —

suggérer *suggestion* *Reggio*

Rem. II. The combination *gh* is a substitute for guttural *g* before *e* and *i*; but it is only found in the two proper names *Berghen*, *Enghien*.

110. The combination *gn* is liable to three different sounds.

1st. Before final *e* mute and in the termination *gnement*, it constantly sounds like final *ng* in English. Examples: —

borgne	enseigne	grognement
épargne	empeigne	éloignement
répugne	Sardaigne	enseignement
témoigne	châtaigne	indignement

2d. When *gne* is followed by a syllable different from *ment*, the mute *e* is sounded, and the *gn* takes the sound as heard in the English word *mignonette*. Examples:

châtaigneraie *ivrognerie* *vigneron* *lignerolle*

This sound of *g* has been termed *liquid*, and generally takes place, when *gn* is found in the middle of a word before a vowel different from *e* mute. Examples:

signal	rossignol	castagnette
agneau	épagneul	magnanime
vignette	compagnon	témoignage
soigneux	campagnard	répugnance

3d. In a few particular words, *gn* takes the sound as heard in the English words *signal*, *ignorant*.

Examples:	*igné*	*stagnant*	*inexpugnable*
Pronounce	ig-né	stag-nant	inexpug-nable

This sound of *gn* constantly takes place at the beginning of a word, as in *gnomon*, *gnostique*, etc., and also in the following words: —

agnus	agnation	stagnation	magnésie
agnat	agnatique	ignition	magnolier
cognat	cognation	ignicole	diagnostique
magnat	cognatique	regnicole	imprégnation

N. B. Bear in mind that *g* is silent in the word *signet*.

111. *H* (*h*) is said to be *aspirate*, when it prevents *linking* and *elision*, as seen in the following examples:—

le hibou	le hameau	je hais
le hareng	le houblon	je hume
le hasard	le harnais	je heurte
le hangar	le homard	la hache
le héros (*)	le hanneton	la harpe
le hableur	le hérisson	la honte

(*) *H* is mute in all derivatives of *héros*; examples, *l'héroïne*, *l'héroïsme*, etc.

Rem. I. When a word beginning with an aspirate *h*, is added to the preposition *en*, as seen in the compounds *enhardi*, *enharnacher*, etc., the nasal sound of *en* is preserved, but no additional *n* is heard after *h*.

Rem. II. In all compound words beginning with *inh*, the *h* is mute, and the *n* sounds as in English.

Examples:	*inhabile*	*inhumain*	*inhabité*
Pronounce,	inabile	inumain	inhabité

Rem. III. The combination *sh* is a compound consonant in the only word *shérif*, taken from the English and pronounced as in English. But in genuine French words containing *sh*, the *sh* is separable, and sounds like *z*.

Examples:	*déshonoré*	*déshérité*	*gentilshommes*
Pronounce,	dézonoré	dézérité	gentizommes

N. B. All words beginning with an aspirate *h*, are marked, in the French dictionaries, with a star (*) placed before them.

112. *L* (*l*) has two sounds; one *liquid*, the other as in English. The liquid sound never takes place at the beginning of a word; hence initial *l* sounds as in English.

The liquid sound of *l* never takes place after a vowel different from *i*; hence final *l*, after a vowel different from *i*, sounds as in English.

Liquid *l* in the middle of a word, is never represented by a single *l*, excepting the two words *gentilhomme*, *Milhaut*.

Rule I. When the combination *ill* is found after a vowel different from *u* simple, it constantly represents liquid *l*, and sounds like *y* in the English word *lawyer*.

Examples:	*bouilli*	*feuillage*	*bâiller* (*)
Pronounce,	bou-yi	feu-yage	bâ-yer

* *Ai* and *ei* are not compound vowels before *ll*; mark, moreover, that in the expression *eill*, the *e* sounds like *é*.

EXERCISES.

bailli	tailleur	travailler
caillou	meilleur	conseiller
Neuilly	paillasse	barbouiller
veillez	treillage	embrouiller
veuillez	vieillard	gazouiller
œillet (*)	brouillard	merveilleux
œillade	sommeiller	gribouillage

* Mark that *œ* before liquid *l* sounds like *eu*.

Rule II. When *ill* is preceded by a consonant or the simple vowel *u*, the *i* preserves its individual sound, and the *ll* is generally liquid.

Examples:	*tillac*	*Guillaume*	*aiguillon*
Pronounce,	ti-yac	Ghi-yaume	aigui-yon

EXERCISES.

tilleul	habiller	papillote
filleul	gaspiller	fusillade
billard	grilloter	cabillaut
grillage	sillonner	corbillard
pillage	déguenillé	périlleux
cuillère	sourcilleux	guillotine

Exception I. Double *l* sounds as in English in the following words and their derivatives: —

ville	village	pupille	vaciller	tranquille
mille	millésime	fibrille	distiller	campanille
Gille	codicille	titillier	instiller	armillaire
Achille	peccadille	osciller	scintiller	maxillaire

Exception II. When *ill* is followed by a diphthong beginning with *i*, it sounds as in English. Examples: —

million *billion* *trillion* *marguillier*

Rem. When *ill* is found at the beginning or end of a word, it sounds as in English. Examples: —

bill *illustre* *illimité* *illuminer*

Rule III. Final *il*, after a vowel different from *o*, constantly represents liquid *l*, and shortens the vowel by which it is preceded; whereas final *ille*, after a vowel different from *u* simple, lengthens that vowel. Ex:

bail	*deuil*	*orteil*	*fenouil*
paille	*feuille*	*oreille*	*grenouille*

EXERCISES.

ail	caille	bétail	éventail
œil	veille	soleil	écureuil
seuil	houille	cerfeuil	citrouille

Rem. I. In verbs ending, in the infinitive mood, with *ailler*, *eiller*, the *a* and *e* before liquid *l* are *short*, and remain so in all inflections of said verbs. Examples: —

travailler	(je) *travaille*	(tu) *travailles*
conseiller	(je) *conseille*	(tu) *conseilles*

Rem. II. The terminations *cueil*, *gueil*, are pronounced *keuil*, *gheuil*. Examples: —

orgueil *écueil* *recueil* *cercueil*

A similar remark applies to the words *enorgueillir*, *cueillir*, and their derivatives; excepting, however, the adjective *orgueilleux*, which is pronounced *orgheilleux*.

113. *S* (*s*) has only two sounds; one sharp, hissing, as heard in the English word *sister*; the other soft, as heard in *easy*.

The soft sound of *s* takes place before the consonants *b*, *d*, *g*, *h*, *v* and *w*; excepting the word *shérif*, which is pronounced *chérif*. Examples: —

sbire	rosbif	Asdrubal	transvaser
svelte	presbyte	Lisbonne	déshonorer
sgrafit	bisbille	Ryswick	disgracieux

The sharp sound of *s* takes place before all consonants different from *b*, *d*, *g*, *h*, *v*, *w*; excepting the words *Israël*, *israélite*, which are pronounced *Izrael*, *izraélite*. Examples: —

scribe	aspic	islam	viscéral
sphère	fiscal	Bosnie	conscience
spectre	Moscou	squelette	discipline

Rem. The French *s* before *m* never takes the soft sound as heard in the English termination *ism*. Examples: —

prisme	civisme	pléonasme	judaïsme
spasme	sarcasme	cataplasme	héroïsme
miasme	marasme	patriotisme	stoïcisme

Rem. II. The combination *sch* constantly sounds like *sh* in English. Examples: —

schiste	schirl	schabraque	schismatique
kirsch	schorl	Schaffhouse	Kamtschatka

114. The sound of *s* before a vowel is sometimes soft, sometimes sharp, according to the following rules:

1st. Initial *s*, before a vowel, constantly takes the sharp sound. Examples: —

sol	saut	syllabe	solaire
sac	salle	social	semblable

2d. When a word beginning with sharp *s* is added to a word or a particle ending with a vowel, the sharp sound of *s* is preserved in the compound. Examples:

havresac	soubresaut	monosyllabe
parasol	antisalle	lunisolaire
tournesol	antisocial	vraisemblable

Exception: The *s* is soft in *philosophie* and compounds beginning with *ré;* such as *résonner, résoluble,* etc.

3d. Final *s*, when sounded, is constantly sharp; but when a word or a particle ending with *s*, is prefixed to a word beginning with a vowel, the *s* takes the soft sound in the compound.

Examples:	*bisaïeul*	*transalpin*	*sousentendu*
Composition,	bis-aïeul	trans-alpin	sous-entendu

N. B. All words which contain *trans* followed by a vowel, come under this rule; excepting *transe, transir, Transylvanie,* in which the *s* is sharp. Examples: —

transiger *transitoire* *transitif* *intransitif*

4th. With regard to words different from the compounds above mentioned, the following rule is to be observed: —

Single *s* is *soft* between two vowels, *sharp* between a consonant and a vowel. Examples: —

présent	*désolé*	*hérésie*	*prosodie*
absent	*consolé*	*autopsie*	*rapsodie*

Exception. *S* is *sharp* in *désuétude, pusillanime,* and soft in *Alsace, Arsace, balsamine, balsamique.*

N. B. Double *s* constantly sounds like one *s* pronounced sharp. Examples of both sounds: —

rose	rosse	basin	bassin	poison	poisson
ruse	russe	frison	frisson	cousin	coussin
base	basse	baiser	baisser	embraser	embrasser

115. *T* (*t*) has two sounds; one *hissing*, equivalent

to hissing *c*; the other hard, as heard in the English words *to*, *not*, *pity*. Examples of both sounds: —

	Spartiate	*satiété*	*initiative*
Pronounce,	Sparciate	saciété	iniciative

Mark, first, that the hissing sound of *t* is only found before *i* followed by another vowel, and that it never takes place after *s* and *x*, nor at the beginning of a word. Hence *t* is hard in the following words: —

tiare	Bastien	bestial	digestion
tiers	bastion	vestiaire	suggestion
tien	mixtion	dynastie	combustion
tioul	question	amnistie	amphictyon

116. When *t* in the middle of a word is preceded by neither *s* nor *x*, it takes the hissing sound in the following positions: —

1st. In all substantives and adjectives ending with *tial*, *tiel*, *tient*, *tieux*, *tion*, *tiaire*, and their derivatives.

Ex:	partiel	nation	national
	martial	potion	impatience
	captieux	faction	factionnaire
	tertiaire	patient	patiemment
	partiaire	quotient	cautionnement

2d. In substantives ending with *tie*; excepting *ortie*, *sortie*, *partie*. Examples: —

Croatie	inertie	argutie	suprématie
Nigritie	ineptie	prophétie	diplomatie
Dalmatie	facétie	péripétie	aristocratie
Béotie	minutie	impéritie	démocratie

3d. In proper names ending with *tien*, and in adjectives ending with *tien*, *tienne*; excepting the adjectiv) *chrétien*. Examples: —

Gratien	égyptien	égyptienne
Domitien	capétien	capétienne
Dioclétion	dalmatien	dalmatienne

4th. In the two verbs *initier* (to initiate), *balbutier* t o stammer), in all their inflections and derivatives.

Examples:	*initier*	*initiation*	*balbutiement*
Pronounce,	inicier	iniciacion	balbuciement

5th. In the words *Miltiade*, *Spartiate*, *satiété*, *insatiable*.

117. *Th* (*th*) never takes the hissing sound of *t*, but constantly the hard sound. Examples: —

Pythie *Scythie* *Mathieu* *corinthien*

118. X (*x*) stands for two letters (*gz* or *ks*); except in numerals and a few proper names.

It stands for *gz*, 1st, at the beginning of a word. Examples: —

xénie *xystique* *xylocarpe*
Xavier *Xénophon* *Xantippe*

2d. In all words beginning with *exa*, *exe*, *exi*, *exo*, *exu*, *exh*. Examples: —

exil *exercé* *exorable* *exaucer*
exact *exemple* *exubérant* *exhausser*

3d. In compounds of the preceding words; such as

inexact *inexorable* *coexistence*
inexercé *inexécutable* *préexistence*

Rem. Aside from the compounds just mentioned, *ex* in the middle of a word sounds like *eks*.

Examples: *Alexandre* *vexation* *réflexion*
Pronounce, Aleksandre veksacion réfleksion

Rem. II. *Ex* before a consonant different from *h*, or at the end of a word, sounds like *eks*. Examples: —

excavation *expliquer* *silex*
exclamation *exterminer* *index*

Rem. As two hissing sounds coming together, coalesce into one, *x* before *ce*, *ci* and *s*, may be said to sound like *k*. Examples: —

exsudation *excision* *excellent*
exsiccation *excitation* *exception*

When *x* is found after a letter different from *e*, it sounds like *ks*. Examples: —

axe *oxygène* *ixeutique* *Xerxès*
oxyde *oxalique* *auxiliaire* *pharynx*

Exception: *X* sounds like sharp *s* in a few proper names and in the numerals

six (six) *dix* (ten) *soixante* (sixty)

and like *z* in the numerals

dix-huit (18) *sixième* (6th) *deuxième*
dix-neuf (19) *dixième* (10th) (second)

Exception II. In the proper name *Don Quixote*, the *x* sounds like *sh* in English.

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